

(3)
Claim 8. (Once amended.) A method of manufacturing a solid-electrolyte battery according to claim 7, wherein said solid-electrolyte layer contains swelling solvent and is gelled.

Marked-up versions of these amended claims are provided in Appendix A attached herewith.

REMARKS

Applicants first thank the Examiner for the courtesy extended during an interview with their Attorneys on April 10, 2002.

Claims 1 - 8 are pending and under consideration.

In the subject Office Action, claims 1 - 8 were rejected. The Examiner alleged that the claims are unpatentable over Narang et al.¹ under §103(a)². The rejections were made final.

The Examiner has essentially repeated the rejections from the first office action, asserting that he is not persuaded by Applicant's arguments presented in response to the first office action.³ Applicants have now amended the independent claims, i.e. claims 1, 4 and 7, to further recite that the solid-electrolyte layers for the positive electrode and the negative electrode are integrated with each other to be formed into one continuous *seamless* layer. The Examiner indicated that the previous claim-recitation of the electrodes 'being formed into a continuous shape' did not necessarily distinguish the claims over Narang et al. The aforementioned amendment more definitely distinguishes the claims over Narang et al. because Narang et al. does not anticipate or render obvious the two electrodes being formed into a 'continuous seamless layer'.

¹ U.S. Pat. No. 6,168,885.

² 35 U.S.C. §103(a).

³ See USPTO Office Action dated August 20, 2001, and Applicants' response thereto filed on November 15, 2001.

Pending claims 2, 3, 5, 6 and 8 are dependent claims that depend on one of the independent claims 1, 4 and 7. Because the parent independent claims are patentable over Narang et al. as discussed above, these dependent claims are likewise patentable over that reference because they incorporate the limitations of their respective parent independent claim.

The amendments to claims 2, 5 and 8 are merely stylistic to help the claims read better, they do not present any new matter. Further, Applicants respectfully request that the amendments to independent claims 1, 4 and 7 be entered because they present the rejected claims in better form for consideration on appeal.⁴

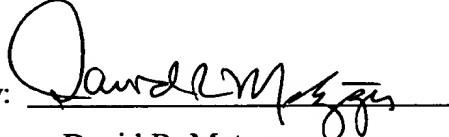
CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, pending claims 1 - 8 are patentable over the reference cited by the Examiner. Further, all of the Examiner's objections and rejections have been addressed herein. It is, therefore, submitted that the application is in condition for allowance.

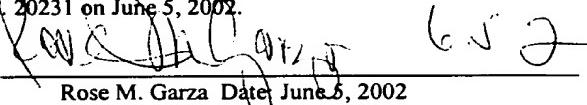
Notice to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,
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⁴ 37 CFR § 1.116(b).